



ADVERSE WEATHER IN WINTER

The safety of students at the school is the primary concern, and all decisions taken have that criterion as their priority. However, working life must go on, and we will not close the school except where children's safety is at risk. In deciding how to manage our response to adverse weather conditions, we are almost entirely dependent on the providers of the buses serving the school. Decisions about closure will be made in conjunction with the various agencies that organise buses that serve the school. In making a decision, we take into account the difficulties of transport and the added traffic on roads in order to ensure safety for all.

The following guidelines should be observed, please, in readiness for winter:

- 1 All students should come to school with plans to:
 - use a friend's house as a base from which to make telephone calls, if necessary;
 - walk, if necessary;
 - pay bus fares if necessary;
 - meet parents at a pre-arranged venue, if necessary.
- 2 On Day 1 of snowfall, we will try to be open if the health and safety of students and staff is not compromised. We will use our Twitter account to inform everyone of whether the school is open or closed. Usually this decision will be made by 6.00am and only in exceptional circumstances will this decision be changed.
- 3 It is for you as a parent to decide whether or not to send your son or daughter to school in adverse weather, and our guidance here is that learning and teaching must go on as normally as possible. However, if, in your judgement, your child would be in danger if you sent him or her to school, we would wish you to keep your child at home. Only you can make that decision, and it depends very much on where you live.
- 4 It is very unlikely that any students in Years 7 to 11 will be sent home before lunch. The school will use its Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/@nhgs>), its website (www.nhgs.co.uk) and email/text messages to keep parents/carers, staff and students informed of what is happening. Students should check their school email accounts regularly to see if staff are setting them work, especially if a closure lasts more than a single day.
- 5 We understand that some students may arrive late if conditions are difficult, and we prefer lateness to absence.
- 6 Parents should PLEASE **not** ring school to find out what the position is re early closure. This simply means that our lines become blocked and no one can ring in or out. Please make your arrangements **IN ADVANCE**: e.g. "If it snows and school closes early, you go tos house, and you telephone from there."
- 7 If you need to contact the school to alert us that your child is unable to attend due to adverse weather when the school is still open, please do so by using the absence reporting feature on Edulink One. You can also email absence@nhgs.co.uk or telephone the school on 01422 244625. If emailing/telephoning the school, please just leave the following information:
 1. Child's name
 2. Child's form
 3. Reason for absence: adverse weather

This way, the School Office Administrators can get through the messages quicker to ensure all students' whereabouts are logged for safeguarding purposes.
- 8 Day 1 of a full day's closure will be used by staff to set up the school's online learning provision, should it be envisaged that school will be closed for more than 1 day.
- 9 The mobile phone policy will be suspended if we decide to close during the school day to allow students to make contact with home directly.

Please be alert to the weather. Students will be reminded of the need to make arrangements for such eventualities, in advance, during the autumn term.